

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 7, 2006, claims 1 and 5 are amended. Claims 1-5 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

**OBJECTION TO AMENDMENT OF 12/7/05 AND REJECTION OF CLAIMS
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH**

The Examiner objects to the amendment filed 12/7/05 as containing new matter and rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description.

The Examiner maintains that “a light source amount reducing member” is not disclosed in the original specification. Consequently, the addition of this feature to claims 1 and 6 is considered to be new matter. Furthermore, since “a light source amount reducing member” is not disclosed in the original specification, the Examiner contends that claims 1 and 5 recite subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In response, claims 1 and 5 are amended to delete the last recited portions. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description, is respectfully solicited.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yeh (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0101550).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Yeh discloses a conductive light amount reducing member (part 210 combined with 230) having L-shape at a joint portion of the end side and the broad side of the light guide plate (see page 4 of the present Office Action).

However, the Examiner has not addressed all the features of the independent claims. Particularly, independent claims 1 and 5 require “a light amount reducing member for reducing the amount of light transmitted therethrough from the light source and made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate” (emphasis added; see pending claims 1 and 5; see also, e.g., paragraph [0045] of the published application US 2004/0061813 corresponding to the present application, hereinafter referred to as “P1”).

It is disclosed in the present specification that:

"The light amount reducing members 21 is made of a material which is capable of transmitting light, has a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate 15, and has conductivity. Examples of such a material include transparent conductive materials, such as ITO, zinc oxide, tin oxide, and the like. When the light amount reducing members 21 is made of such a material, the amount of light which is emitted from the linear light source 11 to the liquid crystal panel 15, is suppressed. Therefore, the ***occurrence of a bright line can be reduced on the linear light source 11 side of the liquid crystal panel 15***” (emphasis added; see, e.g., paragraph [0054] of P1); and

"ITO is most preferable. This is because: (1) ITO has a low resistance and a high conductivity, i.e., is capable of readily absorbing electromagnetic noise, and (2) ITO is

transparent but has a large attenuation coefficient, and has a light transmittance of about 70% to 90% in the visible light region" (emphasis added.; see, e.g., paragraph [0055] of P1).

Yeh only discloses that:

"... the major part of this kind of light is reduced or eliminated by the rampart (or the mask) 230. Therefore, the intensity of the light going out of the lightguide 110 without total reflection is obviously reduced or eliminated" (see, e.g., paragraph [0020] of Yeh).

However, Yeh does not teach or suggest that light is transmitted through the rampart (or the mask) 230, or that the rampart is transparent.

In fact, Yeh discloses that "the ramparts (or the masks) 230 locate on the inside surface of the reflector 210 and integrated with the reflector 210" (emphasis added; see, e.g., paragraph [0020] of Yeh). From such description, a person of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains would understand that, since the rampart is integrated with the reflector, ***the rampart would reflect light and NOT transmit light.***

The factual determination of lack of novelty under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires the identical disclosure in a single reference of each element of a claimed invention such that the identically claimed invention is placed into possession of one having ordinary skill in the art. *Helifix Ltd. v. Blok-Lok, Ltd.*, 208 F.3d 1339, 200 U.S. App. LEXIS 6300, 54 USPQ2d 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *Electro Medical Systems S.A. v. Cooper Life Sciences, Inc.*, 34 F.3d 1048, 32 USPQ2d 1017 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Since Yeh does not disclose (or suggest) a light amount reducing member that reduces the amount of light transmitted therethrough from the light source, as recited in independent

claims 1 and 5, the imposed rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Yeh is not factually or legally viable. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-5 is respectfully solicited.

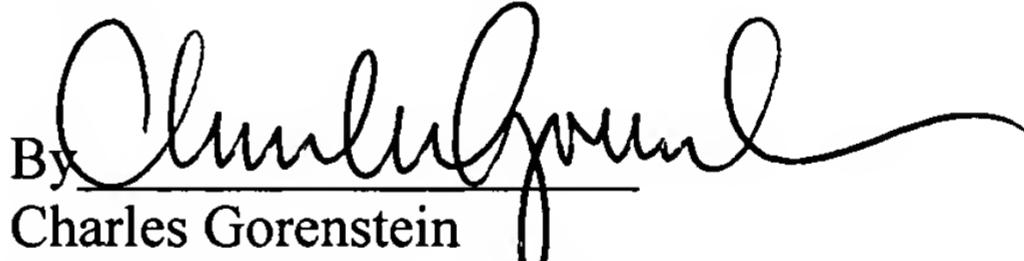
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,271
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant


CG/EJW/ktp